

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL No. 4074

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IMELDA CALIXTO-RUBIANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

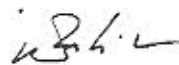
The UNICEF adopts and considers "Education as a fundamental human right". It further states that: "Every child is entitled to it. It is critical to our development as individuals and as societies, and it helps pave the way to a successful and productive future. When we ensure that children have access to a rights-based, quality education that is rooted in gender equality, we create a ripple effect of opportunity that impacts generations to come."

There are indeed many problems besetting the education sector in the Philippines. Among the problems plaguing it are inappropriate and inadequate supply of quality reading materials, and school supplies for students in the public elementary and high school. This weakens and undermines the true essence of free public quality education. The other pressing problems do need to be enumerated herein. All we need is to support the constitutionally enshrined right to quality education.

Our 1987 Constitution and in line with the policy of the State to give priority to "education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development", the importance of the free public quality education cannot be questioned.

It is in this light that this measure seeks to grant appropriate and adequate school supplies and reading materials / books subsidy to students in the public elementary and high schools.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought for.



IMELDA CALIXTO-RUBIANO
Representative
Lone District of Pasay City

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 4074

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE IMELDA CALIXTO-RUBIANO

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE SCHOOL
SUPPLIES AND READING MATERIALS / BOOKS SUBSIDY TO STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “School Supplies and Books Subsidy Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policies.* – The State “recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being”.

It is also a declared State policy under Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution that “the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.”

Further, under Section 2, thereof, “The State shall: (1) Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society; (2) Establish and maintain, a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels. Without limiting the natural rights of parents to rear their children, elementary

education is compulsory for all children of school age; (3) Establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.”

SEC. 3. *School Supplies and Reading Materials / Book Subsidies.* – There shall be an allocation of adequate and appropriate school supplies and reading materials / book subsidies for every student duly enrolled in any public elementary and high school.

The said school supplies and book allowance shall be subject to the rules and regulations, including the conditions and limitations to be formulated by the implementing agency, the Department of Education (DepEd). However, said subsidies shall be dependent on the prevailing market prices and rates of the required school supplies and books of the student’s grade or high school level.

SEC. 4. *Availment of benefit by qualified or eligible students.* – All students duly enrolled in any public elementary and high school shall be qualified and eligible to avail of the benefit of school supplies and reading materials / book allowance.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) in coordination with other government agencies concerned shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken out of the funds appropriated for the Office of the President and/or the Department of Education (DepEd). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued operations and availment of qualified students of the said benefit and allowance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other section or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,